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# Utah Governors' messages to the Legislative Assembly

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Annual message of the Governor to the Legislative Assembly of Utah Territory, 1st (1851)

Governor's message to the Legislative Assembly ... 1852, 1854-<1855>, <1857>, <1861>, <1863>, <1866>, <1869>-<1870>, <1872>, <1874>

Governor's message, 1853

Communication to the Legislative Assembly of Utah annexed to the Governor's message, <1860>

Message of ... <1876>-1880, <1884>, <1888>-1894

Governor's message, with accompanying documents, <1881>

Governor's message ... <1896>

**LLMC 01-065t**

# GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TO THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE

## TERRITORY OF UTAH

DELIVERED IN THE CAPITOL, FILLMORE CITY, MILLARD COUNTY
DECEMBER ELEVENTH,
A.D. EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—

In accordance with the adjournment of the last Legislative Assembly, we have met for the first time in the Capitol, in rooms erected for Legislative purposes at the seat of government. This part of the contemplated State House, being the south wing only, though it may answer for the present, has not those conveniences and that spaciousness and beauty which will be connected with the building, when finished in accordance with the original design. How far this may be accomplished through the aid of the General Government I do not know, but presume that it will make still further appropriations for that object, as the present investment is upwards of $12,000 in excess of the amount appropriated. Until further aid is extended by Congress, this excess should be assumed and paid by the Territory, since it is manifestly unjust that the contractors, and others who have expended their means and labor for this purpose, should be obliged to wait the uncertain period of further appropriations, though the Territory would, probably, be reimbursed at some future time.

We are assembled for the purpose of considering the affairs of our young and thriving Territory, and of framing such laws,

[illegible]

We [illegible] Being [illegible] And [illegible] Him [illegible] Our [illegible] the privilege we enjoy [illegible] seeking and obtaining [illegible] that we may [illegible] all times and in all places [illegible] that [illegible] whose [illegible] majesty [illegible] Though [illegible] we acknowledge it is [illegible] parent who seeks the best interests [illegible]

I [illegible] my former communications to this body, suggested [illegible] laws should be plain, easy to be understood, and few in number. I [illegible] yet [illegible] with any reason for changing my views upon this subject; on the contrary, as life gives me experience, and experience furnishes knowledge and understanding, I find myself more [illegible] therein. Neither should laws be so frequently changed, if we would enjoy a permanent and peaceful government. I am fully aware that matters of local and personal interest require alterations, and that, in a new country like this, where enterprise, development and progress so eminently characterize the people, legislation should keep even pace therewith, and not be bound down by contracted and selfish views, old and exploded policy, or traditional errors. Let a spirit of freedom and liberality pervade all *our acts*, and an *enlightened* and highly practical course of legislation will surely be the result of our deliberations.

We have a very good volume of laws, and I would recommend, so far as they remain applicable to our wants, and are sufficient for probable emergencies, that we do not disturb them. No law, passed by the Legislative Assembly of this Territory, has been annulled by Congress, although, by a most odious and [illegible] feature in the "Organic Act," it retains the power

o to do, a power so utterly repugnant to and subversive of the principles of our free institutions that it should be rarely, if ever, exercised

In order, however, to avoid this, as well as many other questions which might unfortunately arise only to perplex and entangle the relations so unreasonably, yet peacefully, existing in the present form of a dependent State, and to place ourselves, beyond cavil, upon the platform of equal rights, constitutional sovereignty, and free government, based upon the principles sacred to every lover of American liberty as emanating from the people, I recommend that you take the initiatory steps towards our obtaining admission into the Union. Preparatory thereto, it will be necessary to have the census of the Territory taken, and to hold a convention for the formation and adoption of a constitution I would respectfully suggest that this matter be taken into prompt consideration, that, in case you deem it wisdom to make an effort for our admission as a State, the incipient laws may be passed at an early day

We trust that the present Congress will have wisdom to so far recognise the principle of self government, and the genius of our free institutions, as to abolish in her Territories that odious, tyrannical, and absurd system of colonial government which emanated from the British throne, and place them upon that equality of constitutional rights enjoyed by the States in their internal regulations, election of officers and representation.

In accordance with a law passed by the Assembly in 1854-5, the Hon Orson Hyde repaired to Carson county, accompanied by the Hon. Judge Stiles and Marshal Heywood, and in connection with authorized persons from California approximately established the boundary line between this Territory and that State, in the region of Carson Valley, and fully organized the county The reports in relation thereto have been received, and will be laid before you at an early date. The compensation asked for service in determining a portion of our western boundary I trust will not be withheld, although it more properly belongs to the General Government to defray such expenses, since it is more particularly its province to attend to the establishment of the boundary lines of the Territories.

The northern line of Utah has also been established, during the present season by Professors Orson Pratt and Albert Car-

ington, and the Territorial Surveyor General, Jesse W Fox where it crosses the Malade, and, by Prof Pratt and Surveyor General Fox, where it crosses Green river and the emigrant road east of the last named stream There was no accompanying party from Oregon, in either of the above cases, as the information was mainly desirable for determining the jurisdiction of this Territory at points where Oregon had no settlements within hundreds of miles

The revenue, as appears from the Auditor's Report, which with the Territorial Treasurer's Report, I herewith take great pleasure in submitting, for the current fiscal year amounts to $17,348 87, showing an increase, over last year, of $10,962,56

This arises from an increase of property, and a higher per cent assessed by the last Legislative Assembly The total amount of increase, as assessed, is $915,295, being over a third more than during years previous There appears to have been

| | |
|---|---|
| Auditor's warrants in circulation amounting to | $23,401 28 |
| of which | 11,223 57 |
| has been redeemed at the treasury, leaving a balance still in circulation | $12,177 71 |
| Of the current year's assessment $6,279.10 has been received, leaving a delinquency of | $11,069 77 |
| Which shows, if it were all collected, an indebtedness of | $1,107.94 |
| depending on future assessments for payment | |

By the foregoing statement, it appears that the Territory is running a trifle in debt, still I do not presume that it will be necessary to increase the assessment of last year. I deem this situation of the finances attributable to the light assessment of the previous year, it being, for the whole Territory, only $6,386.31, at one half the present rate.

The effects of this small assessment were not felt at the time, as the reports show $2,118.28 more collected during that year than in this. Of last year's assessment $3,004.81 have been paid during this, it is therefore obvious that almost the entire amount of the receipts at the treasury, for the year 1854, came from former assessments, hence it follows that if the assessment of that year had been kept good, there would now have been no falling off

Payments for the suppression of Indian hostilities have been made at the Tithing Office, which accounts for the entries of issues to that office in the Auditor's report

It will also be seen that a large portion of these issues have been redeemed at the treasury, the unadjusted accounts and warrants on hand will liquidate the balance

Since it is not to the payment of fees and salaries that the revenue of the Territory is devoted, but to public improvements and the developement of the country, the people should feel willing to promptly pay their taxes, inasmuch as they directly and almost immediately, receive the benefits thereof

It has been proposed to open new channels of communication with this Territory from the east through the tributaries of the Missouri, and from the south by way of the Colorado Doubtless boats, built expressly for the purpose, will be able to approach our settlements many hundred miles nearer than at present Should it be in your power, by chartering companies or rendering other encouragement, to further any such enterprise, you will meet with my most hearty co-operation; I certainly deem it a subject worthy of your consideration.

Educational interests have flourished hitherto, with but little aid or encouragement from the Legislative Assembly. Should not this subject be taken under advisement by this Legislature, and some well organized system be adopted, which will confer the blessings of at least a common education upon every child, rich or poor, bond or free, in the Territory, and which will establish and keep in operation at least one school where the higher branches are taught?

I am aware that much has already been done and great good effected, by private enterprize, throughout the settlements generally. Though I am sanguine that no Territory, so young as this, can boast of so many or so good school houses and schools, still there is a lack, much remains to be done. The Legislature has appropriated comparatively nothing for this object, and the appropriations of land by the General Government are at present, and a great share always will be, entirely unavailable.

None are so much interested in this matter as ourselves, it would therefore seem to be almost imperative upon this Assembly to extend their most reliable aid and influence for the promotion of learning And now, while we have peace and quietness in all

our borders, is an opportune time to lay a foundation for the instruction of our children, which shall grow with our growth and strengthen with our strength, and extend its influence around the children of the poorest and humblest citizen, as well as the more opulent and wealthy.

Peace, quiet, gentle peace and a due degree of prosperity have thus far crowned our efforts

The Indians, notwithstanding an occasional outbreak, are generally peaceful and friendly disposed.

On the 23d day of Sept. last, three of our people were killed by the Yampah Utahs near Elk mountain, at the settlement on the left bank of Grand river. A party of the Shoshonees also exhibited signs of hostility at Forts Bridger and Supply, in Green river county.

Upon learning these facts, I issued a Proclamation to the Nauvoo Legion, the militia of the Territory, to hold themselves in readiness and to send out such force as might be considered necessary to preserve peace, and to protect the settlements and immigration upon the roads. A party, under the command of Major R. T. Burton, proceeded to the Forts above named and remained in the vicinity, until the immigrating companies had all passed and the Indians had left for their usual hunt among the buffalo. We call on the military, more to preserve peace with the native tribes than to fight them, as it is well known that a substantial, alert force in their immediate neighborhood rarely fails to check their depredations, prevent their abuse and, generally, very suddenly dispose them to seek for peace.

In this connection permit me to observe that the signal success which has attended the peaceful policy uniformly pursued towards the Indians, since our settlement in these valleys, should be satisfactory evidence of its value over every other.

To retaliate for every outbreak by taking their lives, either through civil or military power, and severely chastising them for every depredation, is actually descending to their grade of conduct, and still more excites them to acts of savage barbarity.

We witness, in the surrounding Territories, the effects of the war policy in an almost constant scene of mutual carnage and bloodshed, while our experience confirms the opinion of many eminent statesman, that the conciliatory course is far the most humane and successful, as well as the most economical.

I therefore appeal to you, Gentlemen, to use your influence throughout the Territory to preserve the policy of feeding and clothing the natives, of giving them employment, teaching them to obtain a living by their labor, and exercising patience, perseverance and forbearance towards them, as well as care and watchfulness.

Let this policy be strictly adhered to in all our settlements, and the chances are that we shall hear of no Indian massacres and depredations, at least not to any great extent.

Fortifications have progressed quite satisfactorily in most of the settlements during the past year, the people being materially aided and benefited in their endeavors by the Fortification Act passed at the last Session. It has had a very salutary effect, and through its influence I trust that the defences will be energetically prosecuted to their completion.

I deem it needless to reiterate my views and feelings in relation to home manufactures, for a commendable zeal for their promotion, I am happy in believing, pervades the entire community. Although but few manufacturing establishments, of any considerable importance, are in successful operation, yet a large amount of cloth, leather, hats, pottery, brushes and other articles of import, of a very good quality, have been manufactured. The humble artizan, without capital, makes a beginning and grows into the business, as facilities and means increase around him.

Some very good iron has been made at the works in Iron county, and the present prospect is very fair for the most eminent success. I recommend a continuance of the liberal policy heretofore extended to this branch of domestic manufacture. Other industrial pursuits should also meet with encouragement and aid, so far as compatible with the public interest. Much may be done to promote and encourage the productions of domestic industry, by the adoption of annual exhibitions, and by giving suitable premiums for the best specified articles produced from the native elements.

While we are pursuing the even tenor of our way, in these far distant and peaceful vales, we are not insensible to the scenes and influences passing and operating outside our borders. We quietly observe, in our country, the chicanery, political jarrings, strife for place and power, disregard for law and order,

jealousies and sectional divisions and disunions, which embitter life, leading on to distress, perplexity and often sanguinary war, in place of peace, confidence, union and devotion to the best interests of our common country. What remains? Naught, naught but to apply the torch, and witness the terrible conflagration. To attain this ignoble consummation, hundreds, yea, thousands are stretching forth with frenzied, maddened zeal to be foremost in bringing to pass the direful tragedy.

Abroad, the struggle for freedom is hushed by the loud roar of magnificent war. Nations are contending for a gory bed, suggesting, at least, to the quiet observer to keep aloof from the distracting questions and controversies of the day, which so agitate communities and subvert the peace and quietude of neighborhoods, let whatsoever political demagogue seek to embroil him therein.

Be it our aim so to direct our political affairs as to promote union, integrity, prosperity and independence to the Territory, industry, knowledge and truth to the people, thus shall we secure to ourselves peace and freedom, and transmit to our children those free institutions which we received as a rich legacy from our fathers.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Executive Department, U. T.
Fillmore City, Dec. 11, 1855.